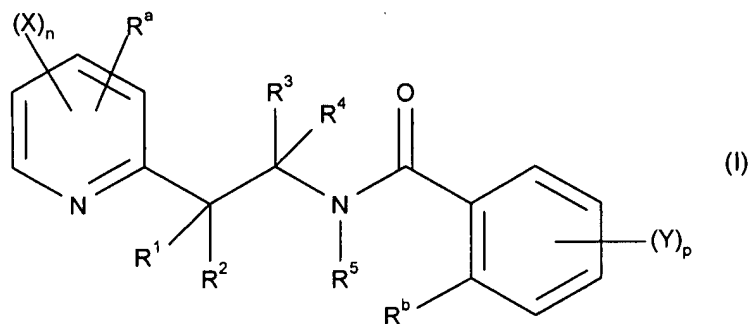


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I):



in which:

$n$  is 1, 2, or 3;

$p$  is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^a$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

each substituent  $X$  is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl and a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -halogenoalkyl;

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)- $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl group, a

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C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyloxy, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyloxy, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group or a phenyl group; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may form together a cyclopropyl, a cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or and a cyclohexyl;

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R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and a phenyl group;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cyanoalkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-aminoalkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

each substituent Y is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a ~~pentafluoro- $\square^6$ -sulfanyl group~~ pentafluoro- $\lambda^6$ -sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a

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C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms or and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylsulfonamide; and

R<sup>b</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a pentafluoro-λ<sup>6</sup>-sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulphonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms or and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonamide;

as well as ~~its salts, N-oxides, metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes and a salt, N-oxide, or~~ optically active isomers isomer thereof.

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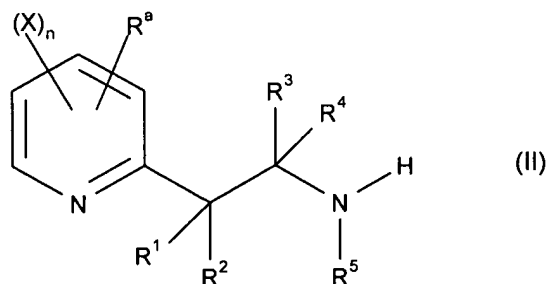
2. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein n is 1 or 2.
3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein X is a halogen atom.
4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3 wherein X is chlorine.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R<sup>a</sup> is -CF<sub>3</sub>.
6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3- and/or in the 5-position.
7. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 6 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by X and in the 5-position by R<sup>a</sup>.
8. (Previously Presented) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in~~  
~~that~~ wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by -Cl and in the 5-position by -CF<sub>3</sub>.
9. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R<sup>b</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy ~~or~~ and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms.

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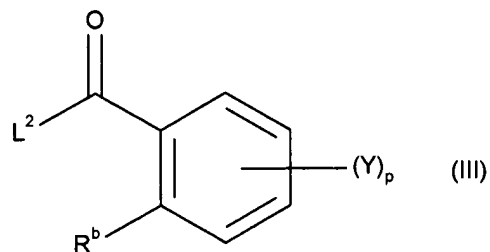
10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein p is 1.
11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein each substituent Y is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl.
12. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfanyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfenyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfinyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonylamino ~~or~~ and a phenyl group.
13. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 12 wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylcarbonylamino.
14. (Canceled)

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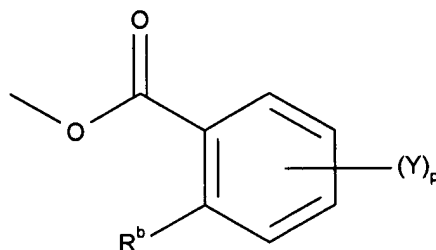
15. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms and a phenyl group.
16. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $C_3$ - $C_7$ -cycloalkyl.
17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of ~~general~~ formula (II) or one of its salts:



wherein  $R^5$  is hydrogen,  
with a carboxylic acid derivative of the ~~general~~ formula (III)

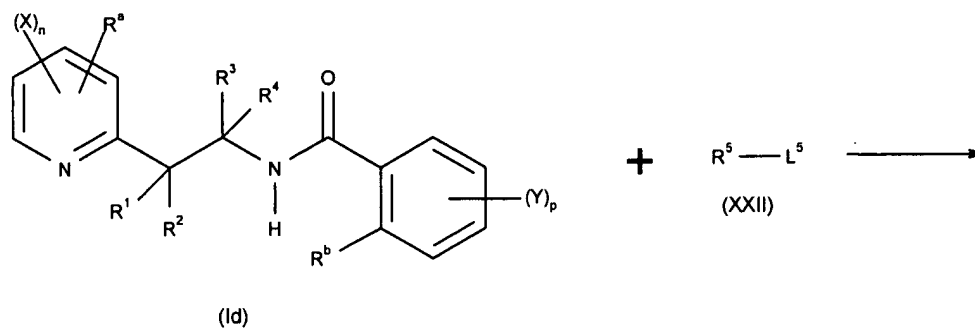


in which:  $\text{L}^2$  is a leaving group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group,  $-\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{OCOR}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^6$  being a  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl, a  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl, and a group of the formula



in the presence of a catalyst and, if  $\text{L}^2$  is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent; then completing the process by a step according to the following reaction scheme:





in which: L<sup>5</sup> is a leaving group chosen as being a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;

comprising the reaction of a compound of general formula (Id) with a compound of ~~general~~ formula (XXII) to provide a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I).

18 -20. (Canceled)